



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish;  
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## ***AGROSTIS BOREALIS*** **NORTHERN BENTGRASS**

Northern Bentgrass is a tufted perennial 15-40 cm tall. The flat leaves are 1-3 mm wide, and the ligule is 1-2 mm long. Foliage is glabrous or slightly roughened. 1-flowered spikelets are borne on the ends of erect or ascending branches in an open but not diffuse inflorescence. The pointed glumes are 2-3 mm long, and lemmas are about the same length as the glumes but with a bent awn, which is ca. 3 mm long. The palea is less than 0.5 mm long, and anthers are less than 0.7 mm long. Fruiting in August.

Among the *AGROSTIS* that occur above timberline, including *A. HUMILIS* AND *A. IDAHOENSIS*, this is the only one with an awned lemma. A hand lens or microscope and technical key are needed for positive identification.